

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes - Thursday, December 18, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Tom Ragonese in the Solomon Welles House. Members present were Tom Ragonese, Charles Wood, Daniel Silbo, Kevin Rogers and Richard Lepore. Also present were Kathleen Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation, Council Liaison, Jeff Kotkin, and Judy Keane, Mark Trahan and Dr. Ken Sokolowski, representing the Keane Foundation.

A. Public Comments.

Mark Trahan distributed a handout to board members discussing the Keane Foundation's request to hold a carnival on the grounds of Cove Park October 16 - 18, 2009. He explained that the reason for the carnival is to use it as a fundraiser to support the Keane Foundation's efforts and to commemorate the town's 375th anniversary. Mr. Trahan explained that the Keane Foundation would be responsible for the entire event. They would contact the neighbors to let them know what was going on; they have selected a carnival operation with an excellent reputation, and they will be working with Parks and Recreation Director, Ms. Bagley, to identify trash concerns, insurance, police, parking and other town issues. Mr. Trahan also reported that the Keane Foundation is considering having the sale of beer and wine during this event on park property. This idea is being researched with town staff. The Foundation will be running food concessions to raise money from this special event. Mrs. Keane reported that their primary concern is safety. They do not want any controversy to impact the Keane Foundation. Board member Dan Silbo suggested talking with the Fire Department since they did this event in the past. Chairperson Ragonese thought it was an exciting event and offered the board's help in any way to make this carnival a reality. He recommended talking with the health inspectors to cover all issues regarding the serving of food. Mr. Trahan explained that the carnival would need water and he will work with Ms. Bagley to accommodate this need. Chairperson Ragonese suggested using the Solomon Welles House for their water needs. Board members discussed the ability to sell wine and beer on park property. They felt if all the appropriate policies, insurance requirements and town issues were covered that they would have no problem with alcohol on park property. Board members suggested advertising this event early and making sure neighbors are contacted to let them know what was going on in their neighborhood. Chairperson Ragonese summed up the Board's feelings by stating that they were in favor of this event. It will be voted on later during this meeting when it comes up on the agenda. Mr. Trahan thanked the board members for their support of this event.

B. Minutes - November 20, 2008.

Dan Silbo moved to approve the minutes of November 20, 2008. The motion was seconded by Kevin Rogers and voted unanimously.

C. Monthly Report - November 2008.

Monthly Report was reviewed by members.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. New Advisory Board member list was distributed to members. This list also included meeting dates for 2009.
2. Winter/Spring Program Brochure for 2009 season - this brochure was distributed to members.

E. Old Business.

1. Mill Woods Park Building Committee - Project Status.

Chairperson Ragonese reported that a punch list has been developed by the architect for the new Mill Woods Little League field. The field is basically done and final items will be completed in the spring. Mr. Ragonese reported that everyone is happy with the construction of this new Little League field and looking forward to using it in the spring of 2009. Little League is working with the Parks and Recreation Department to build the press box with volunteer labor and donated materials. Little League will be discussing the possibility of using this field for games only. Mr. Ragonese reported that Dr. Dest only charged the town for some of the work he did during this construction. He is donating the remainder of his work on this field to the Town. The Building Committee will be sending Dr. Dest a thank you letter for his donation. Mr. Ragonese also reported that at the upcoming Town Council meeting Little League will be presenting their first check of \$20,000 to the town to help fund the lights for the new Little League field.

2. Chairperson Ragonese asked about the status of the street sign for Mill Woods Park in memory of Mr. Dobmeier. Ms. Bagley reported that she is working on a draft sign for the family to review. Mr. Ragonese asked that this project be completed quickly so that it can be completed in time for spring installation.

F. New Business.

1. Capital Improvement Program.

Chairperson Ragonese discussed with Board Members their priorities for the Capital Improvement Projects for the 2009-10 budget. After much discussion, Board Members identified their priority list for projects for the upcoming budget year. Projects are listed below in priority order.

- a. Mill Woods Park Soccer Field - \$560,000.
- b. Mill Woods Little League Field Parking Lot Design - \$18,000.
- c. Solomon Welles House Parking Lot - \$195,000.
- d. Repair 8 Tennis Courts at High School - \$50,000.
- e. Renovate Standish, Greenfield and High School Baseball Fields - \$35,000.
- f. Community Center - Repair Chimney/Repaint Exterior Brick - \$25,000.
- g. Standish Sidewalks - Phase 2 - \$30,000.
- h. Cove Park Docks - Permitting Process with DEP and Final Design - \$30,000.
- i. Community Center - Renovate Main Lobby - \$37,000.

Board members asked for a copy of this priority list to be included in their packet for the January 2009 meeting.

2. Keane Foundation Request to Use Cove Park for Carnival.

Rich Lepore moved to endorse the Keane Foundation request for a carnival on October 16th, 17th and 18th at Cove Park. The motion was seconded by Kevin Rogers and voted unanimously. Board members have no problem with selling beer and wine during this carnival as long as it meets all town requirements and is controlled.

3. Automatic External Defibrillator (AED).

Ms. Bagley reported that an automatic external defibrillator has been installed at the Community Center and staff have been trained on its use. This defibrillator was donated by the Wethersfield Volunteer Firefighters.

4. Governor's List of Shovel Ready Projects.

Ms. Bagley distributed a list of capital improvement projects developed by the Town of Wethersfield and submitted to the Governor for possible federal funding in the future. Some of the projects on this list included Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Projects.

G. Motion to Adjourn.

Charlie Wood moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. The motion was seconded by Rich Lepore and voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director
Parks and Recreation Department